



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Opposing House Bill 282
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
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The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Ways & Means Committee to report unfavorably on House Bill 282.

House Bill 282 – Book & Media Ban
Public Schools Libraries and Sexually Explicit Material

House Bill 282 would create a ban on books and auditory and visual materials that are “sexually explicit materials” and located in public schools. Criminal Law §11-203 already prohibits the sale or display of obscene items to minors. HB282 is, therefore, unnecessary. Additionally, House Bill 282 could be applied to limit student access to important literature, art, and theatre. Survivors of sexual assault and other human beings benefit from sharing stories of their experiences, resilience, and challenges. The General Assembly should not create barriers to these stories.

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Ways & Means Committee to report unfavorably on House Bill 282